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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : We are not approaching the Government of India on that line. But now we have taken up with the Government of India the matter of getting the cost paid by the Government of India of all roads which are classified as National Highways.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it a fact that a sub-way costs less than an overbridge?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : No.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : As there are great delays in traffic at the level crossings, in spite of the Emergency, will the Government reconsider their attitude and see that these bridges are constructed immediately?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : It may not be possible for us to construct immediately, but we are considering all aspects and also the resources available. Whenever funds permit, we do go in. We do not put a complete stop to the construction of roads.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR : May I know how much money had been spent on these bridges before the decision to stop was taken?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : We have not taken up these projects yet.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Was this overbridge included in the Second Five-Year Plan and was it not carried out because some influential persons and shop-keepers were affected in Tiruchirappalli?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have no information on that.

Village Officers

* 176 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received recently from the village officers for the payment of their remuneration without delay and to increase their remuneration; and 2–30 p.m.

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is being examined by the Government.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Have representations also been made in regard to delay in the payment of remuneration and, if so, when are Government likely to decide about these matters?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Sir, they have made a number of representations and they are all under examination of the Government. As far as delay is concerned, I do not think there could be any undue delay in that. If the hon. Member puts a separate question on this particular aspect of the matter, I will look into the matter and tell him the real position.

Dr. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN: What is the position of the village officers in Thanjavur district who have recently resigned consequent on payment of low remuneration to them?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH: Sir, so far as Thanjavur district is concerned, except the report I saw in the newspapers, I have not got any report from the Collector yet. As far as the question of remuneration is concerned, Government have announced that the entire problem would be looked into. All the officers in the other districts have taken that assurance in good spirit and they have not thought of any such action as some—not all—in Thanjavur district have done.

Sri K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: To some extent it has been recognised that the village officers have grievances and, therefore, instead of depending on reports from the Collectors, may I put it to the Hon. Minister that he could make enquiries about them during his tours and redress them?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH: So far as the grievances are concerned, I am well aware of many of their grievances. But the agitation in the Thanjavur district to which reference was made by the hon. Member, does not merely concern the increase in the remuneration. There are many problems linked with it. Government have actually gone into them. A Cabinet Sub-Committee had gone into them and made recommendations and action was deferred because the panchayat administration came into force in the meantime. They expect some changes under it and it will be taken up some time this year. In the other House I have assured that this question will be considered during the course of this year.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Do the Government feel that the allowances paid to the village officers are adequate and with that they can live a decent life, and, if not, will the Government grant an increase as early as possible?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH: If we talk only in terms of money that is given to these officers, then it will be a big question. But here there are so many other questions which have to be looked into as far as the village officers are concerned. There is the problem of full-time employment or part-time employment. There are several other such questions to be settled. So we have to tackle the matter as a whole. If we attach importance only to one aspect of the matter, then we are likely to forget the others. That is why the whole matter was gone into by a Cabinet Sub-Committee. When the decision was about to be taken, the panchayat administration came in and the implementation of the recommendation of the Cabinet Sub-Committee was deferred. Now it will be taken up again.

Dr. A. SREENIVASAN: When the Government are on this question, namely, examining the position of the village officers, will the Government consider the question of the hereditary rights of the village officers also?

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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : As far as the hereditary system is concerned, the Supreme Court has held that it is not permissible under the Constitution.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, is it a fact that the work of the village officers has increased considerably as a result of the introduction of the Panchayat Raj?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Yes, Sir, after Government have taken up more developmental work, the work of the village officers has also increased.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Questions are over.

II.—SWEARING-IN OF NEW MEMBERS—*cont.*

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : A new Member Sri K. Doraiswamy Naidu has come. He will now be sworn in.

* The Member was sworn in (T).

V.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) NOMINATION OF TWO MEMBERS TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 1963-64.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move—

" This House nominates the following two Members of the Council to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Legislative Assembly for the year 1963–64 in the vacancies caused by the expiration of the term of office of Sri T. Joghee Gowder and Dr. A. Chidambaranathan with effect from the afternoon of 20th April 1964 :—

1. Dr. A. Chidambaranathan.
2. Sri A. Chidambara Mudaliar. "

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is—

' This House nominates the following two Members of the Council to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Legislative Assembly for the year 1963-64.
in the vacancies caused by the expiration of the term of office of sri T. Joghee Gowder and Dr. A. Chidambaranathan with effect from the afternoon of 20th April 1964 :

1. Dr. A. Chidambaranathan.
2. Sri A. Chidambara Mudaliar.

The motion was put and carried.

(T) The Member took the prescribed oath in Tamil.

* The Member solemnly affirmed his allegiance to the Constitution.